

Appl. No. : 09/931,732
Filed : August 16, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 29-32, as follows:

Another embodiment of the present invention is an antisense oligonucleotide comprising a first non-RNase H recruiting region having between 3 and about 15 bases, an RNase H recruiting region having between 3 and about 15 bases, and a second non-RNase H recruiting region, wherein at least one of the bases ~~[[are]]~~ is a universal and/or degenerate ~~[[bases]]~~ base. Preferably, no more than about 50% of the bases are universal and/or degenerate bases.

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 29-32, as follows:

The present invention also provides an antisense oligonucleotide comprising a non-RNase H recruiting section and an RNase H recruiting section, wherein at least one ~~[[but]]~~ of the bases are universal and/or degenerate bases. Preferably, no more than about 50% of the bases are universal and/or degenerate bases.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 21-23, as follows:

~~The present invention also provides a method for cleaving a target RNA molecule, comprising the step of contacting said RNA molecule with the ribozyme described above.~~

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, line 29, through page 8, line 6, as follows:

The oligonucleotides used in the binding domains can employ any ~~[[any]]~~ backbone and any sequence capable of resulting in a molecule that hybridizes to natural DNA and/or RNA. Examples of suitable backbones include, but are not limited to, phosphodiester and deoxyphosphodiester, phosphorothioate and deoxyphosphorothioate, 2'-O-substituted phosphodiester and deoxy analogs, 2'-O-substituted phosphorothioate and deoxy analogs,

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morpholino, PNA (U.S. Pat. No. 5,539,082), 2'-O-alkyl methylphosphonates, 3'-amidates, MMI, alkyl ethers (U.S. Pat. No. 5,223,618) and others as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,378,825, 5,489,677, 5,541,307, and the like. Where RNase activity is desired, a backbone capable of serving as an RNase substrate is employed for at least a portion of the oligonucleotide.